

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



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Another year, another sad anniversary

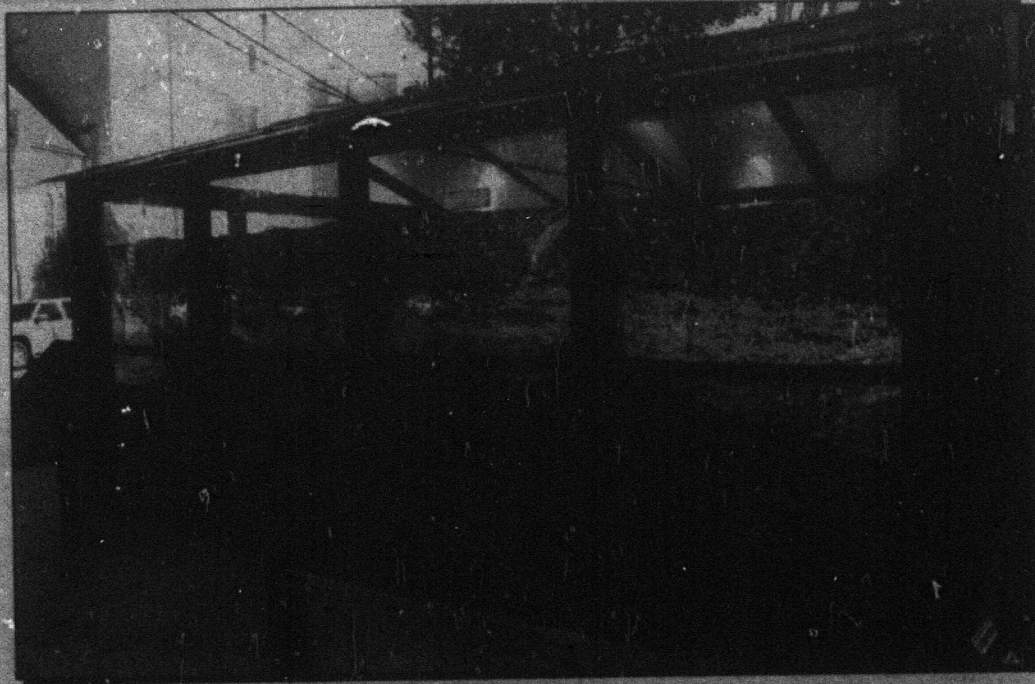
On January 21 an anniversary was observed, but not a typical anniversary with which we associate joy and optimism. Quite the contrary. This sad anniversary marked the 36th year since the U.S. Supreme Court handed down its devastating decision in *Roe v. Wade*, which legalized abortion on demand in this country throughout the entire nine months of pregnancy.

The vote among the justices wasn't even close at 7-2, with only Byron White and future Chief Justice William Rehnquist voting against legalizing abortion.

"I find nothing in the language or history of the Constitution to support the Court's judgment," wrote White in his dissenting opinion. "The Court simply fashions and announces a new constitutional right for pregnant mothers and, with scarcely any reason or authority for its action, invests that right with sufficient substance to override most existing state abortion statutes."

Even the anonymous Jane Roe, for whom the *Roe v. Wade* case was styled, has renounced her role in the whole sordid affair so profoundly that she has allowed herself to be identified. Norma McCorvey, who has become a Christian, wants nothing more to do with this legal and moral travesty.

"It was my pseudonym, Jane Roe, which had been used to create the 'right' to abortion out of legal thin air. But Sarah Weddington and Linda Coffey (her *Roe v. Wade* attorneys) never told me that



MEMORIAL TO THE MISSING — Mississippi Baptists recently completed the filling of the Memorial to the Missing on the grounds of the Baptist Building in downtown Jackson. The Memorial contains 50 million pennies that call attention to the 50 million abortions that have occurred in the U.S. since 1973, when the Supreme Court legalized the procedure nationwide during all nine months of pregnancy. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

what I was signing would allow women to come up to me 15, 20 years later and say, 'Thank you for allowing me to have my five or six abortions. Without you, it wouldn't have been possible.'"

More than 50 million babies have gone to their deaths in the past 36 years.

Abortion is just plain wrong (Psalm 106:37-43; Psalm 127:4-5). God cannot be pleased and, like the ancient Israelites, we will undoubtedly pay a heavy price for our rebellion. Thus it has been, and thus it shall be until Jesus returns.

Why do we think we're any different?

GUEST OPINION:

Christians and elections

By Kevin Smith
Louisville, Ky.

the eternal standing of other Christians in the Kingdom of God based on whether they adopt certain political philosophies and methodologies in the kingdom of man.

I have observed some of the most arrogant Christians on both sides of the aisles during this election cycle. I gladly chose years ago to be an "independent" after working, professionally, on both sides of the aisle. It really is entertaining to see some Christians try to fit their beliefs into their political-party loyalties.

I certainly pray that Southern Baptists and other Christians will remember that no matter who sits in the White House, we still are an "alien" people of God traveling through a "barren land" (at least that's what Bible folks believe). Our main focus is still Southern Baptists connecting people to Jesus Christ.

President Obama (like any politician) is a mixed bag. No candidate runs to advance the Kingdom of God. Therefore, every politician can make Christians happy and sad, at the same time. I feel good that he has been married to one woman and prioritizes his kids. That's a good model for Americans, especially young black men. I feel good that Michelle Obama cherishes the joy of motherhood. That will be especially good for America with our overabundance of dysfunctional families and feminist assaults on dedicated mothers.

I feel bad (more than bad, actually) that he does not think abortion is the murder of unborn babies. Christians must voice strong dissent during the next four years to pro-abortion policies and judicial appointments. Although he does not support "same-sex marriage," I am disappointed that homosexu-

ality is not considered a sin to President Obama, and that he chooses to mock the Old Testament and Paul's teachings in the New Testament. That being said, I would have had the same mixed-bag reaction if John McCain or Hillary Clinton had won the election.

The election of Barack Obama leaves me with mixed feelings. However, the disjointed political engagement of Christians makes me feel bad. It is so hard to find the biblical balance of being "in this world, but not of this world." Wasn't it embarrassing to have so-called Christians predicting the end of the world and calling various candidates "the anti-Christ?" Can't you tell when Christians are "overinvested" in the political process? Do we still believe that the weapons of our warfare "are not carnal?"

When I saw the first black man assume the presidency of the United States of America, I was inspired about America's story. Much has happened in the life of this young nation. However, when I looked around at so-called leading Christian voices during this last election cycle, there was very little inspiration — mostly concern.

Smith is pastor of Watson Memorial Church in Louisville and assistant professor of church history at Southern Seminary in Louisville.

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War over Ca. homosexual marriage not over

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (BP)

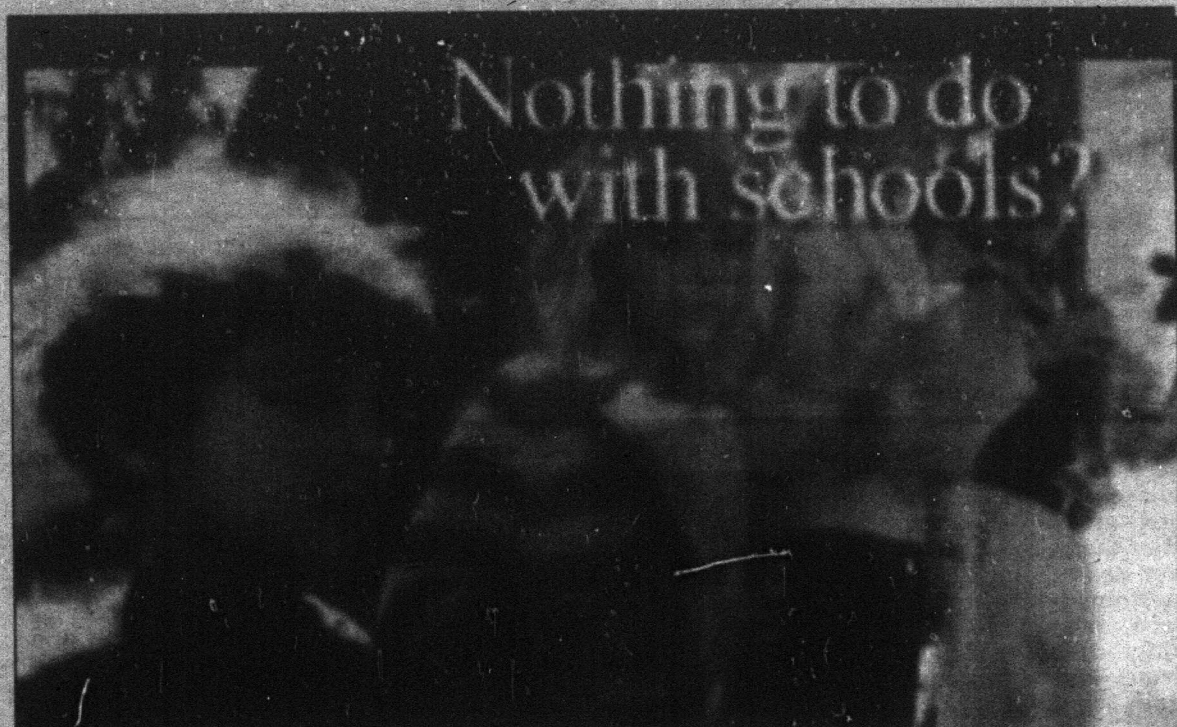
If a new group has its way, Californians may decide in the midst of the 2010 mid-term federal elections — U.S. President Barack Obama's first major ballot test as chief executive — whether to once again vote on the homosexual marriage issue.

The group, known as Yes! On Equality, is hoping to collect enough signatures to place a proposed constitutional amendment on the ballot that would remove Proposition 8 — which passed in November and defines marriage as between one man and one woman — from the state constitution. The group, though, would halt its effort if the California Supreme Court this year strikes Prop 8 from the constitution, which liberal and homosexual activist groups have asked the court to do.

California Attorney General Jerry Brown's office must first give the ballot initiative an official title and summary before Yes! On Equality can begin gathering signatures. The group submitted its request to Brown's office on Jan. 12.

A new ballot initiative could put Obama and fellow Democrats in a tough position on such a controversial social issue, particularly since the homosexual community is part of his base and he has agreed with them on other issues. Last year, Obama opposed Prop 8, calling it discriminatory while simultaneously saying he opposed homosexual marriage — but if he supports the new initiative, he would make history by becoming the first president publicly to back homosexual marriage.

A recently uncovered document revealed that Obama supported homosexual marriage when running for the Illinois state Senate in 1996. The Los Angeles Times editorial board, in its Jan. 21 edition, said Obama's "views on the issue are an embarrassing muddle."



PROP 8 BATTLE — Homosexual inroads into California's public schools became the focus in the debate over the Proposition 8 ballot initiative in that state that passed law fall and establishes marriage as between a man and a woman. A television ad showed actual first-grade students on a lesbian wedding "field trip" that had been approved by the school's administration. (BP image)

Yes! On Equality is a different organization than the official group that called itself No on 8 and raised money to oppose Prop 8. Some within the homosexual community have criticized No on 8 officials for running what they viewed as a less-than-stellar campaign.

Yes! On Equality — which calls itself the sponsor of the "official 2010 marriage equality initiative" — says its campaign will be different.

"In addition to starting early, there are numerous factors that distinguish the Yes! Campaign," a statement on the group's website reads. "Perhaps the most paramount, is the inclusion of people. RollingStone, in a critical analysis of the No on 8 Campaign, noted that No on 8 failed to create a

grassroots style organization and excluded LGBT community leaders. The Yes! Campaign recognizes this and has therefore built its foundation upon the inclusion of a diverse set of people."

Yes! On Equality also says it will try to connect better with minorities. Exit polls showed that 70% of California's African-Americans supported Prop 8.

"The Yes! Campaign is continuing where other attempts left off by getting all groups in our society," the statement said.

Exit polls also showed that Obama received 70% of the homosexual vote nationwide, and he has sided with that community on every major issue except homosexual marriage. Even on that one issue, however, he has taken positions that could assist its legalization.

In addition to opposing Prop 8, he also opposes a federal marriage amendment and a law known as the federal Defense of Marriage Act, which was passed in 1996 and protects states from being forced to legalize homo-

sexual marriage. DOMA, as it is called, also prevents the federal government from legalizing homosexual marriage.

The new WhiteHouse.gov website says simply that Obama believes "we need to repeal the Defense of Marriage Act."

The website also contains a long list of issues that Obama and the homosexual community both support, including repeal of the military's Don't Ask, Don't Tell policy.

"While we have come a long way since the Stonewall riots in 1969, we still have a lot of work to do," according to a statement by Obama directed toward the homosexual community at WhiteHouse.gov. "Too often, the issue of LGBT [lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender] rights is exploited by those seeking to divide us. But at its core, this issue is about who we are as Americans. It's about whether this nation is going to live up to its founding promise of equality by treating all its citizens with dignity and respect."

Looking back

10 years ago

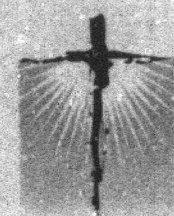
Mississippians Thomas and June Nolen arrive in Odessa, Ukraine, on Feb. 6, where they will be serving as International Service Corps volunteers with the IMB. They will serve as on-site coordinators for Southern Baptist groups doing mission work in the former communist country.

20 years ago

Leake Association honors Cindy Blocker for her work at the association's crisis closet. She has worked on lunch hours, weekends, and nights helping people who need clothing, according to David Satterwhite, Leake director of missions, who presented the award.

50 years ago

Wayne E. Todd, pastor, First Church, Brookhaven, has resigned to become secretary of the Church Library Service of the Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville.



MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS

THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

PUBLISHED SINCE 1877

FEBRUARY 5, 2009

VOL. 133

No. 6



YOU CAN RESPOND
RIGHT NOW!

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

COMBE offers conference

The Conference of Mississippi Baptist Evangelists (COMBE) is sponsoring a conference, Proclaiming the Truth, at Park Place Church, Brandon, Feb. 16 - 17. According to Wayne Hudson, Complete in Christ Ministries, and COMBE president, "The conference has several purposes. First, for pastors to have a chance to hear and meet Mississippi Evangelists; second, for us to spend time in worship and the Word as the Truth is proclaimed; and third, for you to bring lost family and friends so they might come to know Jesus personally."

The conference begins Monday at 6 p.m. Lunch, provided by the Evangelism Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB), will be Tuesday at

11:45 p.m., and the conference continues Tuesday evening at 6.

Keynote messages will be preached by Ted Traylor, pastor, Olive Church, Pensacola, Fla., and Emir Caner, Dean of the College of Southwestern, Fort Worth, Tex. Other speakers and program personalities include Randall Creel, Gary Bowlin, Don Taylor, Bill Freeman, Keith Grubbs, Ron Plymel, R.C. Bryan, Chester Estes, Gene Douglas, and Don Lum. Music will be provided by Benji Rigney, Ray Walker, 4 for One, Myrna Loy Hedgepeth, and Becky Carver.

"These two days will be a special time to hear and visit as well as to be loved and encouraged by these great men and women of God," wrote Lum, director, Evangelism Department, MBCB.

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By Charles Marx, 1932 - 2004
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GQBQVCEQB, LGVNN
EGQ LAY AC TVY LWE
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AC EGQ RAUQB AC
DAO.

NMZQ EUQYEP-
EUA: LWJEP-YWYQ

Clue: C=F

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Luke Nine: Fifty Eight

BRIDGE OUT!

In the summer of 2007, we were all shocked when a huge bridge across the Mississippi River collapsed. The bridge brought together the twin cities of St. Paul and Minneapolis, Minnesota and within just seconds, the entire bridge fell into the river below. While about 10 lives were lost in the tragedy, the amazing thing was that there were not hundreds who died. You will remember seeing the cars stacked up on the bridge, trucks tipped over, and a school bus that nearly went into the river. Although similar incidents have taken place in the past, that bridge collapse brought back to the forefront of national concern all of the bridges that we use from sea to shining sea. The questions began to come forward related to why the bridge collapsed, who was to blame, and could it happen again on other structures. Many other questions and much discussion followed.

In the midst of all of that conversation, finger pointing, and tragedy, I started thinking about bridges all around us. We tend to take them for granted. I doubt there are many people who go back and forth to work who have ever even stopped to think about or count how many bridges they pass over or under in order to get to their workplace.

Some are small and some may be gigantic, but bridge after bridge after bridge is crossed in order to get a few miles down the road. In all of the discussion about the bridge collapse, I saw one number that said there are over 175,000 bridges in America. I certainly have not counted all of the bridges and do not know if that is the number of bridges on our federal highways, or on our state and federal Highways. I don't know how they go about numbering them. If you start looking for them, you will recognize that just here in our state there are bunches of bridges. In spite of the num-

ber, unless one has a gaping hole in it or a railing has fallen off, we do not even pay it any attention.

Have you ever thought about a bridge? It's simply a support mechanism to get you over a difficult or rough spot. I guess you could draw a close parallel of bridges and quality Christian friends who are there and get us over the rough spots in life. Even then, it may be true that we treat the friends as we do the bridges and simply take them for granted.

With all of the attention given to bridge safety, it also occurred to me that for most of us, we had little or nothing to do with the bridges being built or maintained. I know we paid our taxes and they provided the resources for them to be built, but as far as actual hands-on, do-the-work to provide the incredible structures, it is a small number of people who do the labor.

This bridge collapse was simply a reminder to me of the enormous blessings that we have inherited which we rarely notice. The fact is that if we woke up tomorrow morning and all of the bridges within 20 miles around us were gone, it is doubtful that we could get to the places where we work, go to school, or shop. It is hard to imagine.



Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

My final thought about the bridges being out was related to how we complain if they are not there. I was invited to speak at a Senior Adult Revival in Lee Association. It was for all of the senior adults across Lee County and as it turned out it included several other counties. It was being held at First Church, Plantersville. I knew right where I was going and that I was going to arrive in plenty of time before the service began. I went to Verona and was going to take the road across the bottom to Plantersville. I had been across that road hundreds of times through the years.

I knew where I was and where I needed to be, but as I started across the roadway, I noticed a sign that said, "Bridge Out." Underneath that sign it said, "Local Traffic Only." I interpreted "Bridge Out" to mean that most folks could not go that way, but I could.

I went on down the road until I got to the edge of Plantersville. I discovered the bridge was out. I pulled the car up to some of the construction folks and a man walked over to me. I asked, "Is there any way I can get across there?" To which he politely answered, "No! The bridge is out!" I said, "Oh! Well, how do you get over there to Plantersville?" I

could almost see the church from where I was. He said, "Well, you will have to turn around and go back." Then he explained to me the closest detour to get me to where I wanted to be.

I was perturbed and started to take the bridge dilemma a little bit personal. Of all the bridges in the state that needed work done or needed to be replaced, why would they pick out the one that was in my way? I could just see them gathered around the table at the bridge replacement planning session. The main topic of discussion was, "When do you think Jim Futral is going to come and need this bridge so that we can have it all torn up, to inconvenience and aggravate him?" No, a meeting never took place like that. As with much of our complaining, we fail to realize that there are some things on the journey of life that will cause us to slow down, maybe even stop, and often take a different road, which are not all together bad.

While I complained about the bridge being out, it occurred to me that never in my lifetime have I ever stopped or even slowed down to say thank you to a bridge for getting me over the rough places. I have seen bridges being constructed and not once have I ever said thank you to a bridge builder. I have crossed some of the largest and most magnificent bridges ever built, but I have never said thank you to anyone.

If that bridge being out did absolutely nothing else, maybe it helped me to balance my complaining with some equal sense of appreciation — and that was a good thing.

The author can be contacted at jfutral@mbcb.org.

Evangelist Dennis Deese

Dr. Deese is helping win lost souls and disciple the saved by bringing to the people, pastor and people a Biblically Practical, and Life-changing Anointed Word from God. He's being used by God to be an encouragement to the church and its staff in fulfilling their God-given assignment and reaching their God-given potential through Jesus Christ.

"A Bible preaching evangelist is a gift of God to the local church. Evangelist Dennis Deese has preached for me many times and he will be a tremendous blessing to your church. Brother Dennis preaches God's Word with authority, wins souls passionately, and has the work of God in prayer."

Herb Reavis, Pastor
North Jacksonville Baptist Church

"I have never known anyone that loved Jesus and the ministry God has given him more than Dennis Deese. He is a spirit-filled evangelist and I recommend him to you without reservation. Any pastor who wins a man who loves Jesus and hunger for revival needs to have evangelist Dennis Deese."

Evangelist Bill Stafford

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SYLVARENA BAPTIST CHURCH, Wesson, Miss., is seeking a part-time minister of music. Please send resumes to 1119 Old Sylvarena Road, Wesson, MS 39191, attn: music search committee.

MIDWAY BAPTIST CHURCH, Jackson, Miss., is seeking a part-time or bi-vocational pastor. The pastor must reside in Hinds, Rankin, or Madison county. Please submit resume to the pastor search committee, 5609 Clinton Blvd., Jackson, MS 39209 or email to talbaughn@bellsouth.net.

LIBERTY HILL BAPTIST CHURCH, Pope, Miss., is seeking a part-time minister of music and a part-time youth minister. Please send resume to search committee, 5033 Pope-Water Valley Rd., Pope, MS 38658.

JUNIPER GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH of Poplarville Miss., is seeking to fill the position of bi-vocational Music Minister. Send resumes to 289 Juniper Grove Road, Poplarville, MS 39470 or email junipergrove@bellsouth.net.



Practical Principles for Christian Living



STOP THE RAPE OF MISSISSIPPI CHILDREN!!

By Jimmy Porter
Miss. Baptist Christian Action
Commission

Just a few weeks ago a news article titled, "Mississippi has highest teen birth rate, CDC says" blanketed our state newspapers. It stated that Mississippi's rate was more than 60 percent higher than the national average in 2006. In our state there were about 68 births for every 1,000 women in the 15 to 19 age group. The national average is 42.

The editors of several newspapers have addressed the article concluding that we do have a problem. The consensus is that our culture, racial demographics, and poverty are some of the leading causes. Some have even blamed the national rise of teen births on the teaching of abstinence and a failure to teach the proper use of contraceptives. Often overlooked and rarely mentioned is the statutory rape of girls under the age of sixteen.

There is a major uproar - and rightly so - when it is reported that a teacher in our school systems has sexual contact with a student whether it be male or female. Yet every single



Porter

day men walk the streets of our cities and towns who have fathered children by young girls under age. Men who violate these young females are sexual predators who should be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. Two bills in our state legislature will help do just that.

House Bill 1415 and Senate Bill 2472 are two bills in our legislature right now that address this problem as it relates to teen births in Mississippi. There are documented cases of children as young as 12 years of age giving birth to children fathered by 27-year-old males. This is statutory RAPE. These two bills are designed to help prevent this heinous act by holding the perpetrator accountable.

The gist of these bills makes it mandatory for a report to be made to the proper authorities when a child under the age of 16 gives birth or has an abortion. Also, a sample of the infant's DNA is to be collected so there will be no doubt as to whom violated

and abused the under-aged female. Some have suggested that approximately 70 percent of teenage pregnancies are actually Statutory Rape.

Last year a similar bill passed out of the Senate but did not make it out of committee in the House. A task force was appointed in the House to examine the existing situation in regards to the law.

Rep. Philip Gunn has diligently worked on the House bill as has Senator Alan Nunnelee on the Senate bill. There is, however, opposition to these bills by liberal groups who feel one should have the right to do whatever they desire. Several legislators think the existing laws are sufficient and that these bills are not necessary.

It is time citizens of Mississippi demand more from their elected officials by asking them to pass stronger legislation that will provide increased protection and justice for children in our state. We should demand that there be mandatory reporting of teen rape victims and that a DNA sample of the child be preserved to properly identify the culprit who committed the crime.

I cannot understand why a father, mother, or any other concerned citizen

would not support these bills so as to give protection to their children and grandchildren. The Christian Action Commission asks you to make sure you contact your Mississippi Senator and Representative in support of these two bills. To contact your state elected officials go to our website at www.capwiz.com/christianaction/issues/bills and select the respective bills mentioned above. From here you will enter your zip code and then be prompted to write and send your message via email.

Jimmy Porter is director of the Christian Action Commission. He can be contacted at 601-292-3332 or email at jporter@christianaction.com.

**Don't forget the
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Child online porn act appeal dies

WASHINGTON (BP and local reports) — A congressional attempt to protect children from Internet pornography died a quiet death Jan. 21 after years of dispute in federal courts. The U.S. Supreme Court announced without comment it had declined to review a lower-court ruling

that permanently blocked enforcement of the Child Online Protection Act (COPA). The 1998 law, supported by a number of religious groups, aimed at prohibiting commercial websites from making sexually explicit material available to children under the age of 17, but it was never enforced.

Save 2% before Feb 15, 09

Savannah and Golden Isles of Georgia tour
March 9-15 (reg. by Feb 20)

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STAFF CHANGES

1. **Gordon H. Sansing**, pastor of Forest Church, Forest, retired Dec. 31. A reception was held in he and his wife Elese's honor Dec. 7. The Sansings currently reside in Brandon.
2. Calvary Church, Durant, has called **Bryant Bell** as pastor. Bell, originally from Winona, is shown with his wife Kaley and daughter Anna.

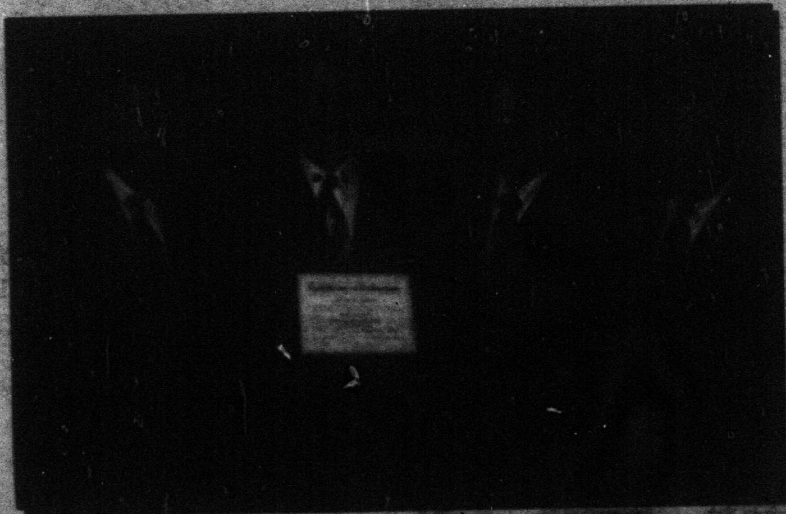


2. The Bells

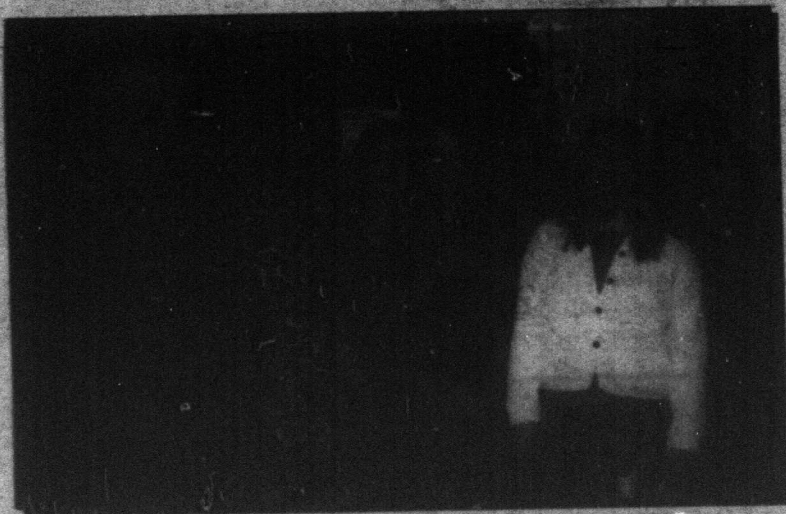
JUST FOR THE RECORD



1. The Vaughns



2. Yarber ordination



3. Mt. Olive Church youth



4. Deacon ordination, First Church, Columbus



MISSISSIPPI BAPTISTS

1. Trinity Church, Philadelphia, licensed and ordained Kevin Vaughn to full-time ministry Jan. 4. Shown are Vaughn, wife Martie, and children Austin, Ansley, Brewer, and Carlyn. He is currently serving as pastor of New Harmony Church, Philadelphia.

2. Crestwood Church, Booneville, ordained Thomas Yarber as deacon Jan. 18. Shown are Ray Johnson, Yarber, Richard Wold, and pastor Jackie Spencer.

3. The youth of Mt. Olive Church, Baldwyn, set up their annual Christmas card mailbox, collecting over \$400 for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. Bobby Cossey, pastor; Dru Allen, youth minister.

4. First Church, Columbus, ordained Neil Caston, Bilbo Davis, Randy McDade, and Robert Rhett as deacons Jan. 11. Shown, front, are Caston, McDade, Rhett, and Davis; back, Dave Taylor and pastor Shawn Parker.

5. North Long Beach Church, Long Beach, recently held a deacon ordination and installation service for Doug Thigpin and Jerry Williamson. Shown are Susan Thigpin, Thigpin, pastor Charles Bonner, Williamson, and Frances Williamson.

6. Mars Hill Church, Winston County licensed William Kolby Sisson to the ministry Jan. 25. He is a student at East Central Community College and plans to attend Mississippi College in the fall. Shown are pastor Tony Linley and Sisson.

7. Children from First Church, Plantersville, recently collected food for the church's food pantry. Shown are the participants.

8. Williamsville Church, Kosciusko, ordained Lee Burrell and Mike Barrentine as deacons. Shown are Rachel Burrell, Burrell, Barrentine, Heather Barrentine, and pastor Junior Davis.



5. Deacon ordination, North Long Beach Church



6. Sisson licensing

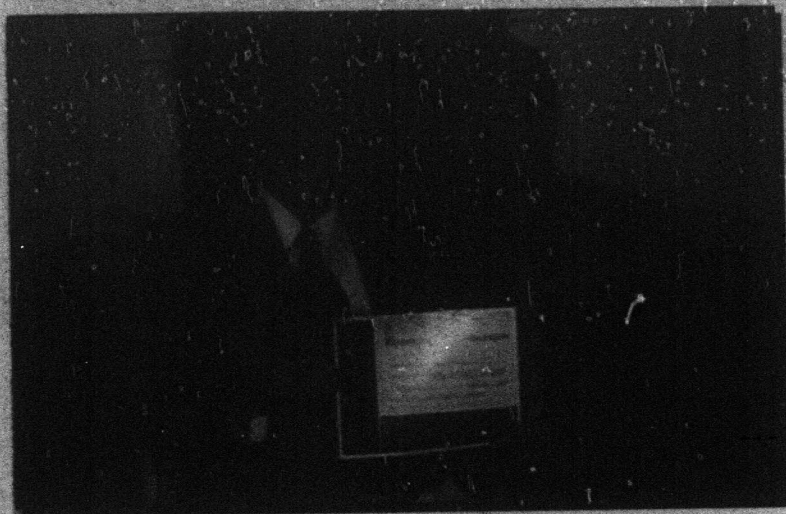


7. First Church, Plantersville

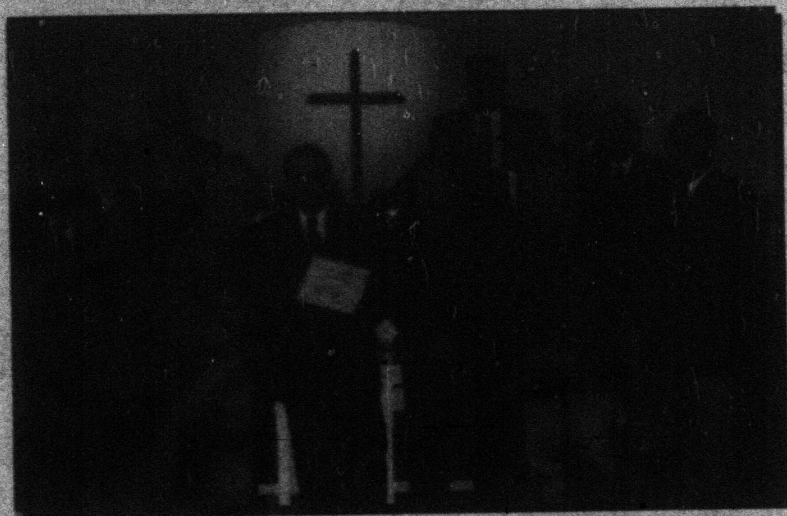


8. Deacon ordination, Williamsville Church

JUST FOR THE RECORD



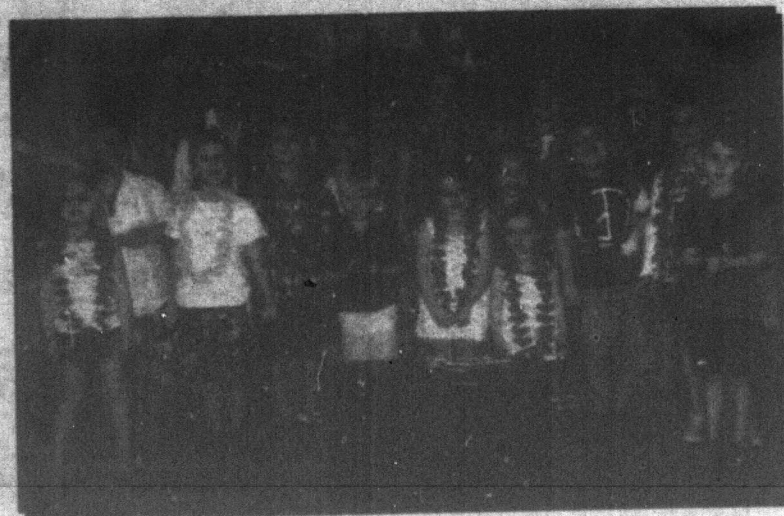
12. Cliett recognition



13. Harper ordination, Crowder Church



14. Baby dedication, Liberty Church



15. Goss Church

9. Kathy Burns, consultant in the wMu Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, will be retiring Feb. 15 after ten years of service.

10. Macedonia Church, Petal, held an Education Appreciation Service Feb. 11 recognizing members who work in the local and surrounding public schools. High school teacher and interim youth pastor Brian Pippen spoke during the evening service which was followed by a reception in honor of those recognized.

11. Sandy Hook Church will have a Valentine Banquet Feb. 8, 5 p.m., with spaghetti plates and a full salad bar. The event includes door prizes, raffles, and entertainment by Southern Station, a bluegrass/comedy group. Tickets, \$7. For information, call (601) 736-4804.

12. Chris Cliett, 22, was awarded a certificate of appreciation for service of over ten years as music director at Cedar Bluff Church, Clay County. Shown are interim pastor Tom Harris and Cliett.

13. Crowder Church, Crowder, recently ordained Matt Harper as deacon. Shown are pastor Larry Kilgore, Harper, and other deacons.

14. Liberty Church, Kemper County, held a baby dedication Nov. 23. Shown are Kelli Bounds, Katherine Bounds, Jas Bounds holding daughter Emma Bounds, Kyla Clay holding daughter Ashlyn Clay, Brock Clay, Mitzi Kennedy holding son Rylan Kennedy, and Ryan Kennedy.

15. The children's choir of Goss Church, Columbia, presented the musical An Island Christmas Dec. 14. Shown are the participants.

16. Grace Church, Vicksburg, collected almost \$500 over their set goal for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. Carolyn Outzs, wMu director.



The Baptist Record
P.O. Box 530
Jackson, MS 39205

COLLEGE NEWS

1. Mississippi College is offering scholarships to high school students who excel at the 35th annual MC Science and Mathematics Tournament. About 1,200 students from 125 high schools, both public and private, are competing Feb. 5-6 on the Clinton campus. Awards will range from about \$300 to \$2,000 per-year for students who later enroll at MC.

2. The William Carey University Chorale, under the direction of Mark Malone, will perform with Carpenter's Wood February 8 at 5 p.m. at First Church, Biloxi. A reception will follow the concert. Prospective high school and community college students are invited.

3. William Carey University will welcome Theodore G. Sarphie to the College of Osteopathic Medicine in July, 2009 when Sarphie becomes associate dean of biomedical sciences. A Mississippi native, Sarphie and his wife Anne will reside in Hattiesburg. His duties will include the oversight and development of the basic sciences curriculum for the first two years of the osteopathic medical curriculum and thereafter.



3. Sarphie

4. Chancery Judge Sebe Dale Jr. of Columbia recently established the Thelma Burrow Dale Endowment for Missions at William Carey University to honor his late mother. The scholarship will provide money for students who are preparing to serve on the mission field and in other mission related causes. Deal is the longest-serving chancery judge in Mississippi.



5. Fulton and Byrd

5. Jessica Terrill, Fulton, was recently crowned the 2009 Miss Mississippi College Scholarship Pageant winner. Shown are Terrill and 2008 winner Morgan Byrd.

6. About 40 Pearl River Community College students gathered Jan. 14 at the Forrest County Center for lunch and a word of prayer at their first BSU meeting. While the BSU has been a presence on the Poplarville campus for a number years, the Jan. 14 meeting was its first expansion at the Forrest County Center. Shown are the participants. Photo and article courtesy of the PRCC Public Relations Department.



6. Pearl River Community College BSU

7. William Carey University will host the Pine Belt Reading Council Literacy Workshop February 21 from 8:30 a.m. until 3 p.m. in Fairchild Hall on the Hattiesburg campus. The workshop is designed for elementary school teachers who want more information on current literacy topics and those wanting to earn CEU credits (.5). The pre-registration fee is \$35 by February 20. The registration fee on February 21 is \$45. The cost includes .5 CEU, a boxed lunch and materials. For more information or to register call (601) 318-6142.

Childers, other lawmakers offer opinions on Obama

WASHINGTON (BP) — Southern Baptists in the U.S. Congress expressed a range of views about President Obama and the new administration when contacted by Baptist Press shortly after the Jan. 20 inauguration, although members of both parties say they are hopeful that both sides of the aisle can work together to find solutions.

Baptist Press contacted several of them in recent days and asked them what their hopes were for the Obama administration. Following are their responses:

• **Rep. Travis Childers** (D.-Ms.), member of East Booneville Church, Booneville: "First, I hope and pray that our new president will continually seek the guidance and wisdom of the Providential Hand which I believe has always led this nation. If he does that, I think his administration can overcome many of the vast challenges that confront not only this nation, but the world."

"Secondly, I hope our new administration works to immediately tackle the pressing issues that all hard working families face today. We have to create more and better job opportunities, and we need to reduce the burden of a soaring deficit that has been placed on the shoulders of every American man, woman and child. Our national security is threatened by the huge amount of debt we owe to foreign countries like China, and we cannot continue in the direction we are headed. We must restore fiscal discipline to our government and work towards a balanced budget."

"To achieve all of this, it is important for our new administration and Congress to remember their shared purpose of uplifting hard working Americans and creating opportunity. I said I would work with the next administration no matter who won November's election, and I intend to keep my word."

• **Rep. Spencer Bachus** (R.-Al.), member of Hunter Street Church, Hoover, Ala.: "A presidential inauguration is always a special time for America and the world. It demonstrates the continuous peaceful transfer of power in our democracy, where the people rule. This is a privilege that we must cherish and which brave U.S. soldiers across the globe defend for us each and every day."

"The assumption of office by President Obama carries historical importance for our country, as evidenced by the millions of citizens from Alabama and around the country expected in Washington for the inaugural

festivities. We look forward to listening to the message of his inaugural speech."

"The President, Congress and the American people are facing challenging times, from our economic problems to the continuing need to keep our country safe from terrorism. Time and time again, Americans have proven their ability to come together, solve problems, and move forward to a brighter future. It is my hope that this spirit will be with us as we begin a new presidency and new session of Congress. The American people expect no less than our best efforts as we remain one nation under God."

• **Rep. Bobby Bright** (D.-Al.), member of First Church, Montgomery, Ala.: "One of President Obama's campaign pledges was to govern in a non-partisan, inclusive manner. His actions after the election, including his nominees for the cabinet, have shown that he is living up to his promises. It is my hope that the Obama administration will continue down this same path."

"The number one issue facing Americans is the economy; unemployment is rising, credit lines to businesses remain tight, foreclosures are skyrocketing, and Americans are worried about their retirements. I believe President Obama is sincere when he says he wants to find consensus across the political spectrum to address these problems. I will work in Congress to make sure this happens."

"I don't agree with President-elect Obama on every issue, but like many Americans I was pleased with the hopeful and positive tone of his campaign. We should all pray for his, and more importantly America's, success."

• **Rep. Lincoln Davis** (D.-Tn.), member of Byrdstown First Church in Byrdstown, Tenn.: "I am pleased President Obama has worked with the Bush Administration through the transition period and shown a willingness to appoint a cabinet with a centrist view of government. It's my belief and hope he will bring both parties together and work in a bi-partisan manner so we can provide opportunities to those in dire need. People throughout Tennessee are losing their jobs and struggling with the high cost of energy and healthcare. The new administration needs to put forward an agenda addressing the needs of all Americans and begin tackling our infrastructure deficit. Furthermore, I hope President Obama is able to establish a position of trust and improve our standing with other nations and engage in a man-

ner that would bring about peace in the Middle East and other parts of the world."

• **Rep. Heath Shuler** (D.-N.C.), member of Biltmore Church in Arden, N.C.: "I am hopeful that the inauguration of President Barack Obama marks the beginning of a new era in American politics: an era that sees us move past the partisan bickering that has marred recent decades to a renewed sense of community, compromise and cooperation. I also pray that the next four years bring a genuine commitment to the protection of life at all its stages — from conception to natural death. We must all remember that we have a moral obligation to help one another, especially the least among us. I am hopeful that throughout the next four years we do just that."

• **Rep. Zach Wamp** (R.-Tn.) member of Red Bank Church in Chattanooga: "Barack Obama is breaking barriers and represents a long journey fulfilled as an African-American elected as President. I share in the joy that this historic inauguration says to every American, regardless of social status or color, that by working hard and preparing themselves, they could become the leader of the free world."

"The disparity between Obama's approval ratings and those of the Democrat Congressional leadership creates many difficulties in moving his new agenda forward, and the public isn't sure whether we are entering a period of unity or division. Obama has a tough road ahead and may have trouble building consensus."

"Of the proposed \$825 billion economic stimulus package, \$550 billion of it will pass through the House Appropriations Committee, where I serve, within 24 hours of President Obama taking his oath of office. The jury is out as to whether the country will unite behind his dramatic and expensive agenda."

"The Republican Party lost its credibility on spending and responsible government, but that doesn't mean it's okay for the Democrats to make things even worse."

Following is a complete list of Southern Baptists in the Senate and House. All of them can be contacted through the Capitol switchboard (202-224-3121).

U.S. Senate

Mississippi

Thad Cochran, Republican. Northminster Church, Jackson.
Roger Wicker, Republican. First Church, Tupelo.

Oklahoma
Tom Coburn, Republican. New Community Church, Muskogee.

South Carolina
Lindsey Graham, Republican. Corinth Church, Seneca.

U.S. House of Representatives

Alabama
Spencer Bachus, Republican. Hunter Street Church, Hoover.
Bobby Bright, Democrat. First Church, Montgomery.

Arizona
Trent Franks, Republican. North Phoenix Church.

Arkansas
John Boozman, Republican. First Church, Rogers.

Florida
Vern Buchanan, Republican. First Church, Sarasota.

Georgia
Lynn Westmoreland, Republican. SouthCrest Church, Newman.

Nathan Deal, Republican. First Church, Gainesville.
Paul Broun, Republican. Prince Avenue Church, Bogart.

Kentucky
Harold Rogers, Republican. First Church, Somerset.

Louisiana
Rodney Alexander, Republican. Sweetwater Church, Quitman.

John Fleming, Republican. First Church, Minden.

Mississippi
Travis Childers, Democrat. East Booneville Church.
Gregg Harper, Republican. Crossgates Church, Brandon.

Missouri
Sam Graves, Republican. First Church, Tarkio.
Roy Blunt, Republican. First Church, Branson.

North Carolina
Heath Shuler, Democrat. Biltmore Church, Arden.

Oklahoma
Frank Lucas, Republican. First Baptist Church, Cheyenne.

South Carolina
Henry Brown, Republican. Cooper River Church, North Charleston.

Gresham Barrett, Republican. Westminster Church, Westminster.

Tennessee
Zach Wamp, Republican. Red Bank Church, Chattanooga.
Lincoln Davis, Democrat. Byrdstown First Church, Byrdstown.

Texas
Louie Gohmert, Republican. Green Acres Church, Tyler.

Al Green, Democrat. Cullen Missionary Baptist Church, Houston.

Mike Conaway, Republican. First Church, Midland.

Randy Neugebauer, Republican. First Church, Lubbock.

Virginia
Randy Forbes, Republican. Great Bridge Church, Chesapeake.

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BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

Pray Persistently

Matthew 15:21-28; Luke 18:1-8

By Bill Patterson

A man went to heaven and was escorted to see the streets of gold and the River of Life. But then the angel showed him a giant storeroom full of precious items.

"I sure could have used those things on earth," the man replied. "What are they?"

"Those are the things the Lord had stored for you," the angel answered, "but you never asked."

The story is too materialistic, but it has a point. Most prayers are not answered because they are never asked. This week's lesson teaches us from God's Word to pray humbly, persistently, and expectantly.

The Prerequisite of Humility (Matt. 21:28)

On His retreat to the cities north of Israel, Jesus was inter-

rupted by a Canaanite lady who prayed for her demon-possessed daughter. The lady approached Jesus as "Son of David" a title which may have indicated she recognized He was the Messiah.

You hurt for the woman as she begged for her daughter because you have been there. No, you haven't been demon possessed, but you have hurt in some other way and have begged God for relief.

That's why you and I are shocked by the silence of Jesus (v. 23). Isn't He merciful? Doesn't He care?

This lady's race was against her—she was a Gentile. Her sex was against her—most rabbis wouldn't talk with women. Even the disciples seemed to be against her when they urged Jesus to "send her away" (v. 23).



Patterson

The fact that this story remains in our Bible is a great testament to an authentic Bible. An invented Bible surely wouldn't have included passages like this one that could Jesus in a bad light.

Jesus was apparently teaching his disciples a valuable lesson. He intended to heal the woman's daughter all along. It may be that He wanted to show the disciples that there will be times in life when we don't understand, when others are against us, and when even God seems to be silent; however, those times shouldn't make us quit praying. On the contrary they should make us continue to humbly Him. God can teach us more by silence than by shouting.

Before Jesus healed the daughter, He told the woman she had "great faith" (v. 28), a great compliment from the Lord! Jesus reserved those words in the Book of Matthew for only two people, both Gentiles (v. 28 and Matt. 8:5-13,

the Roman centurion), both of whom went to great lengths to pray for the Lord's help.

The Requirements of Determination and Expectation (Luke 18:1-8)

If you were to ask, "What ten verses in the Bible should I memorize?" I would suggest one of them be Luke 18:1.

The key to understanding this passage is in verses 7-8a. Jesus is not comparing God to a human judge whose decisions are swayed by a widow who pesters him. Jesus is contrasting God with that judge. His point is that God will quickly answer His people who seek Him.

But that creates a problem, doesn't it? Haven't there been times when you prayed to God but didn't get a quick answer? There are times when God may say "no" like any human parent would answer a child who wanted something that was not best.

He may delay His answer. Daniel 10:12-13 gives an example of one kind of delayed answer to prayer. When God delays an answer it is not due

to inactivity but to preparation. There are other times God may delay answering to see if we will draw close to Him. In those cases the closeness to God gained through seeking Him in prayer is better than the answers we wanted.

How long should we keep on praying any specific request? One rule of thumb is to keep on until God answers or until the Holy Spirit instructs your heart that you should stop. Jesus' point was that we are not like the poor widow who pestered a judge until he gave in. We can't twist God's arm and make Him answer. But we don't have to. Unlike the widow, we do not come to a court of law but to a throne of grace (Heb. 4:14-16).

Our continued prayers are not like "pestering the horns off a billy goat." No, they are like a child crawling into the lap of a loving Father. Because He loves us, we can expect Him to answer for His glory and our good.

Patterson is pastor of First Church, Richland.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

You can Feel Safe

2 Thessalonians 1:1-12

By Joyce C. Rogers

Paul wrote this letter from Corinth in the early '50's. This second letter to the Thessalonians appears to have been written soon after the first letter. It seems that the Thessalonians misunderstood Paul regarding the second coming of the Lord. They thought Christ was coming soon, in their lifetime. This belief led some to neglect their earthly responsibilities and some to be alarmed and suffering unnecessary apprehension.

What is God Doing in Me?

The letter began with a typical greeting. Then Paul expressed joy over what God was doing in the lives of the believers in Thessalonica. Their faith and their love for one another had increased. Paul could boast about them to other churches. The persecutions they

endured had made them stronger. If we are facing trials and hardships because of our faith, is it making us bitter or strengthening our character?

Love among the believers is the evidence of the Spirit's presence in the church. What does this say about churches where there is discord? Are we allowing the Holy Spirit to work in our lives by increasing our love for our Father's other children?

What is God Going to Do With Me?

Suffering for God's kingdom seems unfair in this life, but God will "repay with affliction those who afflict you" (2 Thess. 1:6). Christians know that Jesus is Lord now. At the second coming, all people will know and see His Lordship and authority.

I once saw a Muslim man kneel on a small rug and pray to



Rogers

Allah. When I remember that occasion, I think of Philippians 2:10-11. "That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord." That man and many, many others will someday bow to Jesus, not Allah.

It's not over 'til it's over. God will make everything right in the final judgment. The troubles of the Thessalonians proved that God considered them worthy of His kingdom. Not all injustices will be punished in this life, but God is just and good and nothing escapes His attention.

Those who have suffered as believers will be rewarded for their faithfulness when Jesus comes again. He will "come with His powerful angels, taking vengeance with flaming fire" on those who are unbelievers and those who don't obey God. These will "pay the penalty of everlasting destruction, away

from the Lord's presence" (2 Thessalonians 1:8, 9 HCSB).

The reference to "those who don't know God" in verse 8, I believe, does not include those who have never heard. It refers, rather, to those who refuse to believe. Those who have never heard the gospel are accountable for what they do know. Romans 1:20 NIV tells us "For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse."

When Jesus comes, His saints will glorify and admire Him. Paul's testimony among the Thessalonians was believed. God will deal with justice both the righteous and the wicked.

Paul refers to "His saints" in verse 10. "When He comes to be glorified by His saints," the word "saints" does not refer to a special category of believers. Becoming a saint is the result of believing in Jesus rather than personal merit. Yet we are to grow and mature in practice as Christians, a process called sanctification.

What does God Want to Do Through Me?

God will enable us by His power to do good works whereby He will be glorified. This is Paul's prayer.

The central message of the Old Testament is found in Micah 6:8 NIV. "He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." If God expects us to act justly and love mercy, how much more will God be just and merciful to us? (I especially like the merciful part.)

Those who have believed in Christ will see His glory and be amazed. May God so work in our lives to bring honor to His name. "Thou will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on Thee: because he trusteth in Thee. Trust ye in the LORD forever: for in the LORD JEHOVAH is everlasting strength" (Isaiah 26:3, 4 KJV).

Rogers is a member of Main Street Church, Hattiesburg.

Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no-text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.

THE BAPTIST
Record

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if

submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted. Cell phone photographs and other low resolution items are generally not publishable. Photographs can not be returned. Please do not attach photos with tape or staples.

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. News items and/or photographs depicting benefits and activities for secular or outside organizations will not be published. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org



HONOR ROLL OF CHURCHES

Each January we evaluate the cash gifts received by The Baptist Children's Village during the previous twelve months. In this evaluation it has become customary to list the Mississippi Baptist churches in descending order of total cash gifts. This does not include non-cash gift items or volunteer efforts that many churches contribute. This evaluation and analysis has become known as the "Honor Roll of Churches."

Dr. Rory Lee, Executive Director

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RANK	CHURCH NAME	CITY	2006 GIFTS
1	First Baptist Church	Waynesboro	\$116,873.47
2	Calvary Baptist Church	Waynesboro	\$44,230.00
3	Immanuel Baptist Church	Vicksburg	\$35,675.62
4	Bunker Hill Baptist Church	Columbia	\$32,164.55
5	Morrison Heights Baptist Church	Clinton	\$29,117.20
6	First Baptist Church	Water Valley	\$24,612.00
7	Liberty Baptist Church	Waynesboro	\$21,512.15
8	Bel Aire Baptist Church	Gulfport	\$19,079.25
9	First Baptist Church	Kosciusko	\$18,370.98
10	First Baptist Church	Crystal Springs	\$16,662.49
11	Seminary Baptist Church	Seminary	\$15,153.52
12	First Baptist Church	Jackson	\$14,169.00
13	First Baptist Church	Richmon	\$13,459.00
14	Brandon Baptist Church	Brandon	\$13,366.69
15	Murphy Creek Baptist Church	Louisville	\$12,934.75
16	First Baptist Church	Batesville	\$12,861.00
17	Williamsville Baptist Church	Kosciusko	\$12,137.31
18	First Baptist Church	Corinth	\$11,057.61
19	Trinity Baptist Church	Philadelphia	\$10,858.71
20	Memorial Baptist Church	Richmon	\$10,794.32
21	Steeple Hollow Baptist Church	Poplarville	\$10,682.42
22	Leaf River Baptist Church	Collins	\$10,601.00
23	First Baptist Church	Madison	\$10,526.32
24	Liberty Baptist Church	Liberty	\$10,453.12
25	Trinity First Baptist Church	Waynesboro	\$10,086.05
26	Faith Baptist Church	Meridian	\$10,016.13
27	First Baptist Church	Louisville	\$9,901.93
28	East Philadelphia Baptist Church	Philadelphia	\$9,464.48
29	Oak Forest Baptist Church	Jackson	\$9,344.98
30	First Baptist Church	Clinton	\$9,016.98
31	First Baptist Church	Brookhaven	\$8,876.00
32	Fellowship Baptist Church	Meridian	\$8,767.85
33	North Greenwood Baptist Church	Greenwood	\$8,745.52
34	Gaston Baptist Church	Booneville	\$8,368.23
35	Walshall Baptist Church	Walshall	\$8,334.00
36	First Baptist Church	Buckatunna	\$8,145.00
37	Pleasant Hill Baptist Church	Carthage	\$8,067.91
38	Rienzi Baptist Church	Rienzi	\$7,962.60
39	Attala Baptist Association	Kosciusko	\$7,947.81
40	First Baptist Church, Runnelstown	Petal	\$7,846.59
41	Sylvarena Baptist Church	Raleigh	\$7,800.82
42	Ackerman Baptist Church	Ackerman	\$7,760.95
43	Briar Hill Baptist Church	Florence	\$7,700.00
44	Vaiden Baptist Church	Picayune	\$7,560.00
45	Vaiden Baptist Church	Vaiden	\$7,507.24
46	Topisaw Baptist Church	Bogue Chitto	\$7,500.00
47	Calvary Baptist Church	Bogue Chitto	\$7,498.67
48	Pine Forest Baptist Church	Collinsville	\$7,496.72
49	Rolling Creek Baptist Church	Quitman	\$7,464.86
50	Oak Grove Baptist Church	Mendenhall	\$7,179.34
51	First Baptist Church	Raymond	\$7,166.67
52	Indian Springs Baptist Church	Laurel	\$7,162.24
53	Harmony Baptist Church	Louisville	\$7,131.04
54	First Baptist Church	Laurel	\$6,855.00
55	First Baptist Church, Lyman	Gulfport	\$6,841.02
56	First Baptist Church	Newton	\$6,658.12
57	First Baptist Church	Greenville	\$6,609.89
58	First Baptist Church	Abbeville	\$6,567.12
59	Bovina Baptist Church	Vicksburg	\$6,554.00
60	Bethany Baptist Church	Calhoun City	\$6,543.00
61	Fredonia Baptist Church	New Albany	\$6,529.45
62	Sand Hill Baptist Church	Richmon	\$6,500.00
63	First Baptist Church	Canton	\$6,480.52
64	First Baptist Church	Vicksburg	\$6,438.05
65	First Baptist Church	Quitman	\$6,432.50
66	Shiloh Baptist Church	Port Gibson	\$6,372.87
67	Crossview Baptist Church	Brandon	\$6,310.00
68	First Baptist Church	Booneville	\$6,085.57
69	Parkway Baptist Church	Kosciusko	\$5,981.04
70	Branch Baptist Church	Morton	\$5,916.07
71	Hurley Baptist Church	Hurley	\$5,887.89
72	First Baptist Church	Calhoun City	\$5,870.99
73	Mount Zion Baptist Church-Tate	Independence	\$5,819.97
74	Spring Creek Baptist Church	Philadelphia	\$5,797.35
75	Broadmoor Baptist Church	Madison	\$5,764.00
76	First Baptist Church	Sardis	\$5,717.10
77	Parkway Baptist Church	Clinton	\$5,628.00
78	Topeka Baptist Church	Jayess	\$5,571.97
79	Valley Park Baptist Church	Valley Park	\$5,571.84
80	First Baptist Church	Yazoo City	\$5,529.66
81	X-Tended Missions Network	Hernando	\$5,500.00
82	Poplar Springs Drive Baptist Church	Meridian	\$5,457.24
83	Cornerstone Baptist Church	Olive Branch	\$5,451.81
84	Concord Baptist Church	Macon	\$5,445.00
85	Springfield Baptist Church	Morton	\$5,430.00
86	First Baptist Church	Tupelo	\$5,389.56
87	Perkins Baptist Church	Perkins	\$5,359.00
88	Hurricane Creek Baptist Church	Sandy Hook	\$5,246.23
89	Northminster Baptist Church	Jackson	\$5,140.00
90	Grays Creek Baptist Church	Hernando	\$5,139.88
91	Chaparral Baptist Church	Waynesboro	\$5,129.76
92	Big Creek Baptist Church	Waynesboro	\$5,118.17
93	Forest Baptist Church	Forest	\$5,105.00
94	Como Baptist Church	Como	\$5,105.00
95	First Baptist Church	Columbia	\$5,015.00
96	First Baptist Church	Senatobia	\$5,008.65
97	New Hope Baptist Church	Meridian	\$5,000.00
98	West Kemper Baptist Church	De Kalb	\$4,988.22
99	Silver Creek Baptist Church	McComb	\$4,955.00
100	First Baptist Church	Hazlehurst	\$4,931.07
101	Meadville Baptist Church	Meadville	\$4,925.80
102	First Baptist Church	Okolona	\$4,915.52
103	Wildwood Baptist Church	Clinton	\$4,703.07
104	Thrasher Baptist Church	Booneville	\$4,700.00
105	First Baptist Church	Starkville	\$4,700.00
106	Smithville Baptist Church	Smithville	\$4,700.00
107	Old Pearl Valley Baptist Church	Philadelphia	\$4,650.00
108	Highland Baptist Church	Vicksburg	\$4,617.63
109	Noxapater Baptist Church	Noxapater	\$4,574.97
110	First Baptist Church	Brandon	\$4,553.16
111	Unity Baptist Church	Harrisville	\$4,551.74
112	Rock Hill Baptist Church	Brandon	\$4,541.80
113	Mount Moriah Baptist Church	Bruce	\$4,485.73

114	West Shady Grove Baptist Church	Waynesboro	\$4,465.73
115	Woodmarket Baptist Church	Biloxi	\$4,444.89
116	Old Silver Creek Baptist Church	Silver Creek	\$4,436.55
117	Fairview Baptist Church	Columbus	\$4,435.00
118	First Baptist Church	Natchez	\$4,421.00
119	County Line Baptist Church	Union	\$4,410.99
120	Bucatunna Baptist Church	Meridian	\$4,408.95
121	Stanton Baptist Church	Natchez	\$4,375.35
122	First Baptist Church	Union	\$4,366.70
123	Carrollton Baptist Church	Carrollton	\$4,359.32
124	Tylertown Baptist Church	Tylertown	\$4,345.74
125	Goodwater Baptist Church	Magee	\$4,334.35
126	First Baptist Church	Eupora	\$4,239.24
127	Anchor Baptist Church	Water Valley	\$4,230.00
128	Mount Zion Baptist Church	Columbus	\$4,225.00
129	Neshoba Baptist Church	Union	\$4,200.13
130	Dry Creek Baptist Church	Mendenhall	\$4,187.00
131	Dublin Baptist Church	Carson	\$4,176.43
132	Westwood Baptist Church	Meridian	\$4,172.59
133	First Baptist Church	Amory	\$4,151.00
134	Rocky Point Baptist Church	Carthage	\$4,147.00
135	Meadow Grove Baptist Church	Brandon	\$4,140.00
136	Parkway Baptist Church	Houston	\$4,128.69
137	North Winona Baptist Church	Winona	\$4,117.97
138	First Baptist Church	McComb	\$4,081.53
139	Harmony Baptist Church	Walnut	\$3,984.13
140	Church Road Baptist Church	Horn Lake	\$3,953.29
141	First Baptist Church	Foxworth	\$3,935.36
142	Clarke-Venable Baptist Church	Decatur	\$3,934.13
143	Prentiss Baptist Church	Prentiss	\$3,901.18
144	First Baptist Church	Biloxi	\$3,868.50
145	Liberty Baptist Church	New Albany	\$3,860.00
146	High Hill Baptist Church	Philadelphia	\$3,811.69
147	Deer Creek Baptist Church	Rolling Fork	\$3,727.00
148	First Baptist Church	Belzoni	\$3,725.37
149	New Sight Baptist Church	Brookhaven	\$3,708.78
150	Hollandale Baptist Church	Hollandale	\$3,703.69
151	Temple Baptist Church	Hattiesburg	\$3,700.00
152	Valley Grove Baptist Church	Tupelo	\$3,683.66
153	First Baptist Church	Nettleton	\$3,682.75
154	Sand Hill Baptist Church	Ellisville	\$3,622.20
155	Kennedy Springs Baptist Church	Magee	\$3,589.49
156	Central Baptist Church	Brookhaven	\$3,569.00
157	First Baptist Church	Pascagoula	\$3,522.04
158	Trinity Baptist Church	Carthage	\$3,516.00
159	Crystal Ridge Baptist Church	Louisville	\$3,484.00
160	First Baptist Church	New Albany	\$3,451.63
161	Eastwood Baptist Church	Indianola	\$3,430.24
162	Macedonia Baptist Church	Byhalia	\$3,424.68
163	Magee's Creek Baptist Church	Jayess	\$3,422.92
164	West End Baptist Church	West Point	\$3,405.80
165	Ephesus Baptist Church	Forest	\$3,398.20
166	First Baptist Church	Collins	\$3,368.71
167	Crowder Baptist Church	Collins	\$3,360.20
168	First Baptist Church	Crowder	\$3,346.67
169	Hillcrest Baptist Church	State Line	\$3,337.00
170	Loxahoma Baptist Church	Jackson	\$3,284.27
171	Salem Baptist Church	Senatobia	\$3,280.30
172	Calvary Baptist Church	Collins	\$3,275.04
173	Shiloh Baptist Church	Tupelo	\$3,271.62
174	Oakland Baptist Church	Louisville	\$3,208.84
175	Calvary Baptist Church	Corinth	\$3,202.00
176	DeSoto Baptist Church	Greenwood	\$3,202.00
177	First Baptist Church	Shubuta	\$3,180.00
178	Star Baptist Church	Indianola	\$3,167.90
179	Pleasant Hill Baptist Church	Star	\$3,162.52
180	Ellison Ridge Baptist Church	Quitman	\$3,141.07
181	Wyatt Baptist Church	Louisville	\$3,140.56
182	New Harmony Baptist Church	Senatobia	\$3,138.67
183	Mount Moriah Baptist Church	Blue Springs	\$3,093.31
184	Midway Baptist Church	Bogue Chitto	\$3,035.54
185	Silver Springs Baptist Church	Meridian	\$3,025.00
186	Remus Baptist Church	Osyka	\$3,005.00
187	West Jackson Street Church	Carthage	\$3,003.35
188	First Baptist Church	Tupelo	\$3,000.00
189	Ingomar Baptist Church	Bruce	\$2,992.00
190	First Baptist Church	New Albany	\$2,973.00
191	First Baptist Church	Mendenhall	\$2,958.00
192	Southway Baptist Church	Long Beach	\$2,944.92
193	First Baptist Church	Brookhaven	\$2,937.04
194	Oakvale Baptist Church	Coldwater	\$2,908.75
195	Arkabutla Baptist Church	Oak Vale	\$2,888.94
196	Chesterville Baptist Church	Isola	\$2,884.18
197	Calvary Baptist Church	Arkabutla	\$2,861.73
198	Mount Zion Baptist Church	Tupelo	\$2,865.50
199	Central Baptist Church	Batesville	\$2,842.40
200	Fellowship Baptist Church	Meridian	\$2,834.32
201	Mount Horeb Baptist Church	Mc Neill	\$2,834.00
202	Arm Baptist Church	Starkville	\$2,825.48
203	Berea Baptist Church	Collins	\$2,825.14
204	Newhebron Baptist Church	Silver Creek	\$2,774.32
205	Ruleville Baptist Church	Mc Cool	\$2,766.07
206	Oak Hill Baptist Church	Newhebron	\$2,765.50
207	Lexie Baptist Church	Ruleville	\$2,753.48
208	Selah Baptist Church	Booneville	\$2,710.30
209	Beulah Baptist Church	Tylertown	\$2,700.00
210	Desoto Hills Baptist Church	Ecu	\$2,665.85
211	Tomnolen Baptist Church	Southaven	\$2,661.72
212	Liberty Baptist Church	Eupora	\$2,661.72
213	Diamondhead Baptist Church	De Kalb	\$2,660.00
214	New Bethel Baptist Church	Ecu	\$2,635.47
215	Shel Baptist Church	Diamondhead	\$2,634.08
216	D'Lo Baptist Church	Carrollton	\$2,621.61
217	Pleasant Grove Baptist Church	Ethel	\$2,612.35
218	Clear Creek Baptist Church	D Lo	\$2,605.16
219	Beulah Baptist Church	Brookhaven	\$2,602.00
220	First Baptist Church	Shubuta	\$2,602.00
221	First Baptist Church	Inverness	\$2,590.80
222	First Baptist Church	Raleigh	\$2,560.00
223	Gallman Baptist Church	Charleston	\$2,530.11
224	Hopewell Baptist Church	Gallman	\$2,530.00
225	First Baptist Church	Crystal Springs	\$2,520.00
226	First Baptist Church	Mathiston	\$2,505.00
227	First Baptist Church	Ripley	\$2,499.96
228	Rocky Creek Baptist Church	Lucedale	\$2,482.70
229	Friendship Baptist Church	Sturgis	\$2,443.48
230	First Baptist Church	Coffeeville	\$2,425.00
231	Bethsaida Baptist Church	Philadelphia	\$2,410.00
232	Chunky Baptist Church	Chunky	\$2,400.00
233	Evergreen Baptist Church	Louisville	\$2,395.00
234	Bay Springs Baptist Church	Bay Springs	\$2,391.00
235	Casey Creek Baptist Church	Booneville	\$2,385.00
236	Midway Baptist Church	Jackson	\$2,384.50
237	New Hope Baptist Church	Sumrall	\$2,381.90
238	Longview Heights Baptist Church	Olive Branch	\$2,380.00
239	Ecu Baptist Church	Ecu	\$2,376.00
240	Longview Baptist Church	Belden	\$2,371.00
241	Alta Woods Baptist Church	Jackson	\$2,366.54
242	First Baptist Church	Olive Branch	\$2,345.83
243	Zion Hill Baptist Church	Blue Springs	\$2,341.00
244	Macedonia Baptist Church	Tupelo	\$2,328.00
245	Hickory Grove Baptist Church	Coldwater	\$2,325.04
246	First Baptist Church	Cleveland	\$2,296.13
247	Beulah Baptist Church	Myrtle	\$2,289.07
248	Eden Baptist Church	Yazoo City	\$2,260.54
249	Holly Baptist Church	Corinth	\$2,258.98
250	Good Hope Baptist Church	Philadelphia	\$2,254.09
251	Union Baptist Church	Meridian	\$2,244.25
252	Bethel Baptist Church	Poplarville	\$2,220.97
253	Pine Grove Baptist Church	Picayune	\$2,215.00
254	Immanuel Baptist Church	Greenwood	\$2,202.35
255	Bethany Baptist Church	Prentiss	\$2,200.00
256	Whitesand Baptist Church	Prentiss	\$2,200.00
257	Fellowship Baptist Church	Hernando	\$2,200.00
258	Good Hope Baptist Church	Richmon	\$2,200.00
259	Oak Hill Baptist Church	Pontotoc	\$2,160.00
260	West Ripley Baptist Church	Ripley	\$2,153.00
261	Fellowship Baptist Church	Enterprise	\$2,143.52
262	Montrose Baptist Church	Louis	\$2,142.00
263	Mantee Baptist Church	Mantee	\$2,142.00

264	Crane Creek Baptist Church	Perkinston	\$2,137.07	414	Ludlow Baptist Church	Ludlow	\$1,437.98
265	Bethel Baptist Church	Etta	\$2,131.03	415	Yade Baptist Church	Pascagoula	\$1,432.25
266	Mount Pisgah Baptist Church	Carrollton	\$2,123.25	416	Scotland Baptist Church	Winona	\$1,431.74
267	Pearlhaven Baptist Church	Brookhaven	\$2,115.00	417	Gatesville Baptist Church	Crystal Springs	\$1,431.28
268	Leaf Baptist Church	McLain	\$2,100.00	418	New Hope Baptist Church	Foxworth	\$1,430.00
269	First Baptist Church	Terry	\$2,099.40	419	First Baptist Church	Itta Bena	\$1,425.00
270	New Hope Baptist Church	Gulfport	\$2,073.76	420	Port Gibson Baptist Church	Port Gibson	\$1,424.00
271	Myrick Baptist Church	Laurel	\$2,055.61	421	Mount Olive Baptist Church	Philadelphia	\$1,413.43
272	Second Baptist Church	Kosciusko	\$2,054.77	422	Gooden Lake Baptist Church	Belzoni	\$1,413.00
273	Providence Baptist Church	Ackerman	\$2,050.00	423	First Baptist Church	Carthage	\$1,402.88
274	Mount Manna Baptist Church	Coldwater	\$2,048.00	424	Wellman Baptist Church	Bogue Chitto	\$1,400.00
275	Logue Chitto Baptist Church	Bogue Chitto	\$2,042.00	425	Driver's Flat Baptist Church	Oxford	\$1,400.00
276	First Baptist Church	Sartalia	\$2,038.93	426	First Baptist Church, Chicora	Buckatunna	\$1,398.16
277	Navilla Baptist Church	McComb	\$2,034.13	427	Lowery Creek Baptist Church	Seminary	\$1,397.00
278	Short Creek Baptist Church	Yazoo City	\$2,030.00	428	Oakland Baptist Church	Walnut	\$1,395.68
279	Gum Grove Baptist Church	Brookhaven	\$2,009.84	429	Morgantown Baptist Church	Natchez	\$1,377.14
280	First Baptist Church	Magee	\$2,003.00	430	First Baptist Church	Taylorville	\$1,375.00
281	Juscumbia Baptist Church	Booneville	\$2,002.00	431	Mount Pleasant Baptist Church	Gloster	\$1,373.00
282	Success Baptist Church	Saucier	\$2,001.08	432	First Baptist Church, Glendale	Hattiesburg	\$1,371.34
283	Bethsaida Baptist Church	French Camp	\$2,000.00	433	Magnolia Baptist Church	Laurel	\$1,368.00
284	Arbor Grove Baptist Church	Houston	\$1,995.00	434	Ridgecrest Baptist Church	Madison	\$1,350.58
285	Good Hope Baptist Church	Louisville	\$1,990.20	435	Moak's Creek Baptist Church	Summit	\$1,350.00
286	Kolola Springs Baptist Church	Caledonia	\$1,980.00	436	Crape Creek Baptist Church	Stewart	\$1,350.00
287	Pine Grove Baptist Church	Hickory Flat	\$1,975.36	437	Bethany Baptist Church	Potts Camp	\$1,350.00
288	Siloam Baptist Church	Magee	\$1,968.39	438	Water Oak Baptist Church	Waynesboro	\$1,346.47
289	Border Springs Baptist Church	Caledonia	\$1,968.00	439	Grace Baptist Church	Laurel	\$1,335.74
290	Ellistown Baptist Church	Blue Springs	\$1,965.00	440	South Crossroads Baptist Church	Iuka	\$1,335.00
291	First Baptist Church	Purvis	\$1,965.00	441	County Line Baptist Church	Carthage	\$1,329.40
292	First Baptist Church	Lumberton	\$1,964.52	442	New Prospect Baptist Church	Oxford	\$1,320.00
293	Sallis Baptist Church	Sallis	\$1,949.61	443	New Prospect Baptist Church	Iuka	\$1,320.00
294	Union Baptist Church	Mize	\$1,945.41	444	First Baptist Church	Poplarville	\$1,305.00
295	Christ Baptist Church	Greenwood	\$1,945.00	445	Sunrise Baptist Church	Carthage	\$1,303.48
296	Oak Dale Baptist Church	Pontotoc	\$1,929.06	446	Mount Carmel Baptist Church	Carthage	\$1,302.90
297	Skeggs Baptist Church	Skene	\$1,916.74	447	Amity Baptist Church	Woodland	\$1,301.68
298	Williamsburg Baptist Church	Collins	\$1,916.05	448	First Baptist Church	Steens	\$1,300.00
299	Center Hill Baptist Church	Ecu	\$1,911.60	449	Hepzibah Baptist Church	Vossburg	\$1,300.00
300	Mount Vernon Baptist Church	Newton	\$1,905.15	450	Glading Baptist Church	Magnolia	\$1,300.00
301	First Baptist Church	Flora	\$1,900.00	451	Causeyville Baptist Church	Meridian	\$1,294.13
302	NW Zion Baptist Church	Crystal Springs	\$1,897.03	452	Melrose Baptist Church	Benton	\$1,287.00
303	Spring Hill Baptist Church	Oakland	\$1,895.20	453	North Carrollton Baptist Church	N Carrollton	\$1,279.25
304	Mount Zion Baptist Church	Taylorville	\$1,855.00	454	Fernwood Baptist Church	Fernwood	\$1,271.84
305	Grace Memorial Baptist Church	Gulfport	\$1,855.00	455	Seminary Baptist Church	Beaumont	\$1,268.78
306	First Baptist Church	Brooklyn	\$1,854.01	456	First Baptist Church	Grenada	\$1,268.00
307	You View Baptist Church	Gulfport	\$1,850.00	457	Cary Baptist Church	Cary	\$1,265.48
308	Cartersville Baptist Church	Petal	\$1,850.00	458	Woodlawn Baptist Church	Vicksburg	\$1,265.07
309	Jelden Baptist Church	Belden	\$1,843.47	459	French Camp Baptist Church	French Camp	\$1,264.52
310	West McComb Baptist Church	McComb	\$1,840.00	460	Antioch Baptist Church	Hazlehurst	\$1,261.61
311	Union Baptist Church	Roxie	\$1,836.04	461	Horseshoe Baptist Church	Tchula	\$1,260.00
312	Shiloh Baptist Church	Big Creek	\$1,825.19	462	Pilgrim's Rest Baptist Church	Eupora	\$1,250.00
313	New Hope Baptist Church	Mount Olive	\$1,814.84	463	Easthaven Baptist Church	Brookhaven	\$1,250.00
314	First Baptist Church, Delisle	Pass Christian	\$1,812.00	464	Pleasant Ridge Baptist Church	Bruce	\$1,250.00
315	Calvary Baptist Church	Holly Springs	\$1,809.00	465	Hillcrest Baptist Church	New Albany	\$1,250.00
316	Shuqualak Baptist Church	Shuqualak	\$1,808.47	466	First Baptist Church	Lambert	\$1,245.00
317	Calvary Baptist Church	Corinth	\$1,802.00	467	Centerville Baptist Church	Tylertown	\$1,244.00
318	Mount Gilead Baptist Church	Meridian	\$1,800.00	468	Zion Rest Baptist Church	Buckatunna	\$1,241.10
319	Tocowa Baptist Church	Batesville	\$1,800.00	469	First Baptist Church	Summit	\$1,240.07
320	Peoples Baptist Church	Ripley	\$1,800.00	470	Parkway Baptist Church	Hernando	\$1,235.80
321	Eron Baptist Church	Jayess	\$1,800.00	471	Providence Baptist Church	Grenada	\$1,229.10
322	Glenfield Baptist Church	New Albany	\$1,797.05	472	Morgan Chapel Baptist Church	Sturgis	\$1,227.00
323	Olive Baptist Church	Lumberton	\$1,792.72	473	Kokomo Baptist Church	Kokomo	\$1,225.00
324	Pleasant Hill Baptist Church	Calhoun City	\$1,784.58	474	Pheba Baptist Church	Pheba	\$1,225.00
325	First Baptist Church	McLain	\$1,784.11	475	Calvary West Point Baptist Church	West Point	\$1,209.71
326	Cornerstone Baptist Church	Batesville	\$1,782.11	476	Pleasant Hill Baptist Church	Olive Branch	\$1,205.00
327	Georgetown Baptist Church	Georgetown	\$1,781.45	477	West Salem Baptist Church	Richton	\$1,200.00
328	Cedar Grove Baptist Church	Columbia	\$1,775.85	478	Broadway Baptist Church	Southaven	\$1,200.00
329	North Columbia Baptist Church	Columbia	\$1,768.50	479	Sharkey-Issaquena Baptist Association	Rolling Fork	\$1,200.00
330	Bethel Baptist Church	Bogue Chitto	\$1,761.49	480	Greenland Baptist Church	Union	\$1,200.00
331	Oldtown Baptist Church	Pittsboro	\$1,761.00	481	Union Baptist Church	Nettleton	\$1,200.00
332	Interstate Baptist Church	Shaw	\$1,758.48	482	Cumberland Baptist Church	Maben	\$1,200.00
333	Wheeler Grove Baptist Church	Corinth	\$1,752.22	483	Grace Memorial Baptist Church	Tupelo	\$1,200.00
334	Corinth Baptist Church	Magee	\$1,748.42	484	Midway Baptist Church	Carthage	\$1,200.00
335	Main Street Baptist Church	Goodman	\$1,742.42	485	First Baptist Church	Fulton	\$1,200.00
336	Mount Pleasant Baptist Church	Mt Pleasant	\$1,738.62	486	Twin Lakes Baptist Church	Madison	\$1,200.00
337	Cedar Grove Baptist Church	Lena	\$1,737.38	487	Friendship Baptist Church	Brookhaven	\$1,200.00
338	Macedonia Baptist Church	Brookhaven	\$1,732.00	488	Braxton Baptist Church	Braxton	\$1,200.00
339	Bond Baptist Church	Philadelphia	\$1,730.30	489	East Pleasant Grove Baptist Church	Quitman	\$1,200.00
340	First Baptist Church	Clara	\$1,730.00	490	Salem Baptist Church	Potts Camp	\$1,200.00
341	Auburn Baptist Church	Pearl	\$1,727.00	491	Roxie Baptist Church	Roxie	\$1,200.00
342	Eastside Baptist Church	McComb	\$1,710.00	492	Oak Grove Baptist Church	Mount Olive	\$1,200.00
343	Hinkle Baptist Church	Rienzi	\$1,708.50	493	Grace Baptist Church	Philadelphia	\$1,200.00
344	Society Hill Baptist Church	Oak Vale	\$1,705.00	494	First Baptist Church	Ellisville	\$1,200.00
345	Rome Baptist Church	Rome	\$1,700.00	495	Bethel Baptist Church	Liberty	\$1,200.00
346	Union West Baptist Church	Oxford	\$1,700.00	496	Dry Creek Baptist Church	Holcomb	\$1,200.00
347	Ridgely Heights Baptist Church	Escatawpa	\$1,692.15	497	Locust Hill Baptist Church	Philadelphia	\$1,200.00
348	Park Place Baptist Church	Brandon	\$1,689.00	498	West Heights Baptist Church	Blue Springs	\$1,200.00
349	New Prospect Baptist Church	Brookhaven	\$1,687.63	499	Blythe Creek Baptist Church	Pontotoc	\$1,195.00
350	Crystal Springs Baptist Church	Tylertown	\$1,669.00	500	First Baptist Church	Mathiston	\$1,187.00
351	Corinth Baptist Church	Carthage	\$1,660.00	501	Highland Baptist Church	Leland	\$1,180.00
352	First Baptist Church	Rosedale	\$1,660.00	502	Trinity Baptist Church	Jackson	\$1,176.63
353	Concord Baptist Church	McCall Creek	\$1,650.00	503	Victory Baptist Church	Vicksburg	\$1,173.30
354	Freedom Baptist Church	Laurel	\$1,640.00	504	New Haven Baptist Church	Brookhaven	\$1,168.94
355	Trinity Baptist Church	Fulton	\$1,637.00	505	Siloam Baptist Church	Weir	\$1,162.43
356	North Oxford Baptist Church	Oxford	\$1,634.00	506	Parkview Baptist Church	Mendville	\$1,161.03
357	Calvary Baptist Church	Summit	\$1,631.16	507	Hebron Baptist Church	Picayune	\$1,158.23
358	Central Baptist Church	McComb	\$1,630.84	508	Rocky Branch Baptist Church	Benton	\$1,158.00
359	Courtland Baptist Church	Courtland	\$1,625.00	509	Crossroads Baptist Church	Etta	\$1,157.29
360	Hathorn Baptist Church	Columbia	\$1,621.10	510	Big Creek Baptist Church	Biloxi	\$1,153.46
361	Pleasant Ridge Baptist Church	Dumas	\$1,618.67	511	Evergreen Baptist Church	Big Creek	\$1,151.26
362	Calvary Baptist Church	New Augusta	\$1,610.90	512	First Baptist Church	Shubuta	\$1,139.83
363	Indian Springs Baptist Church	Petal	\$1,602.00	513	New Home Baptist Church	Meridian	\$1,135.50
364	First Baptist Church	Baldwyn	\$1,602.00	514	First Baptist Church	Fulton	\$1,132.17
365	Arlington Baptist Church	Bogue Chitto	\$1,599.33	515	Elon Baptist Church	Vardaman	\$1,132.00
366	Tuscola Baptist Church	Lena	\$1,590.00	516	Center Baptist Church	Macon	\$1,127.00
367	Pittsboro Baptist Church	Pittsboro	\$1,588.99	517	Centerville Baptist Church	Blue Springs	\$1,125.05
368	Trinity Baptist Church	Southaven	\$1,588.87	518	Buck Creek Baptist Church	Centerville	\$1,123.00
369	Standing Pine Baptist Church	Walnut Grove	\$1,588.42	519	Trace Ridge Baptist Church	Richton	\$1,121.64
370	Banner Baptist Church	Bruce	\$1,572.00	520	First Baptist Church	Mineral Wells	\$1,120.61
371	Phalti Baptist Church	Prentiss	\$1,568.46	521	Oak Grove Baptist Church	Ridgeland	\$1,115.60
372	Golden Central Baptist Church	Golden	\$1,566.00	522	Jrds Baptist Church	Philadelphia	\$1,110.00
373	Faith Baptist Church	Hickory Flat	\$1,551.99	523	Holly Springs Baptist Church	Benton	\$1,105.00
374	Galilee Baptist Church	Gloster	\$1,547.06	524	Bethlehem Baptist Church	Foxworth	\$1,101.91
375	Union Baptist Church	Sardis	\$1,541.51	525	Calvary Baptist Church	Benton	\$1,100.00
376	Doty Springs Baptist Church	McCool	\$1,538.34	526	Faith Memorial Baptist Church	Quitman	\$1,100.00
377	Furrs Baptist Church	Pontotoc	\$1,537.00	527	Airport Baptist Church	Poplarville	\$1,095.56
378	Camp Creek Baptist Church	Guntown	\$1,536.27	528	First Baptist Church	Grenada	\$1,087.00
379	Calvary Baptist Church	Newton	\$1,532.04	529	Wiggins Baptist Church	Louise	\$1,085.56
380	Pilgrim's Rest Baptist Church	Crystal Springs	\$1,529.07	530	Enterprise Baptist Church	Carthage	\$1,075.00
381	Brooksville Baptist Church	Brooksville	\$1,529.07	531	New Palestine Baptist Church	Liberty	\$1,064.00
382	Shady Grove Baptist Church	Lucedale	\$1,527.92	532	Brush Creek Baptist Church	Picayune	\$1,061.14
383	County Line Baptist Church	Walnut	\$1,527.61	533	Carriage Hills Baptist Church	Corinth	\$1,060.99
384	Terry's Creek Baptist Church	Magnolia	\$1,522.81	534	Tuxechena Baptist Church	Southaven	\$1,054.97
385	Providence Baptist Church	Hattiesburg	\$1,522.70	535	Mars Hill Baptist Church	Perkinston	\$1,045.52
386	Heritage Baptist Church	Lucedale	\$1,516.80	536	Salem Baptist Church	Summit	\$1,045.00
387	Griffith Memorial Baptist Church	Jackson	\$1,515.00	537	Main Street Baptist Church	Golden	\$1,045.00
388	DeKalb Baptist Church	De Kalb	\$1,510.00	538	Hollywood Baptist Church	Hattiesburg	\$1,037.00
389	Maranatha Baptist Church	Smithdale	\$1,505.59	539	Beatline Baptist Church	Sledge	\$1,035.06
390	Harmony Baptist Church	Mount Olive	\$1,500.00	540	Limestone Baptist Church	Philadelphia	\$1,029.59
391	Pleasant Grove Baptist Church	Crystal Springs	\$1,500.00	541	Emmanuel Baptist Church	Nettleton	\$1,024.92
392	Center Terrace Baptist Church	Woodland	\$1,500.00	542	Clarksdale Baptist Church	Grenada	\$1,023.12
393	Harrisburg Baptist Church	Canton	\$1,500.00	543	Tishomingo Baptist Church	Clarksdale	\$1,020.00
394	Center Ridge Baptist Church	Tupelo	\$1,500.00	544	Hickory Baptist Church	Tishomingo	\$1,016.00
395	Liberty Baptist Church	De Kalb	\$1,500.00	545	West Union Baptist Church	Hickory	\$1,009.05
396	Roundaway Baptist Church	Newton	\$1,500.00	546	Progress Baptist Church	Carriere	\$1,009.00
397	County Line Baptist Church	Doddsville	\$1,493.69	547	Little Bahala Baptist Church	McComb	\$1,005.00
398	Harmony Baptist Church	Overt	\$1,488.00	548	First Baptist Church	Wesson	\$1,002.00
399	Bogue Chitto Baptist Church	Pontotoc	\$1,486.57	549	Jones Chapel Baptist Church	Magnolia	\$1,000.00
400	First Baptist Church	Tylertown	\$1,485.98	550	Perry Baptist Association	Nettleton	\$1,000.00
401	New Providence Baptist Church	Pearl	\$1,485.00	551	Parks Baptist Church	New Augusta	\$1,000.00
402	Macedonia Baptist Church	Hazlehurst	\$1,483.02	552	Riverside Baptist Church	Blue Springs	\$1,000.00
403	Beacon Street Baptist Church	Mendenhall	\$1,480.82	553	First Baptist Church, Polkville	Waynesboro	\$1,000.00
404	South Louisville Baptist Church	Philadelphia	\$1,477.65	554	Rock Branch Baptist Church	Morton	\$1,000.00
405	Sebastopol Baptist Church	Louisville	\$1,464.00	555	Evergreen Baptist Church	Union	\$1,000.00
406	Hebron Baptist Church	Sebastopol	\$1,463.00	556	Mount Zion Baptist Church	Nettleton	\$1,000.00
407	Providence Baptist Church	Cleveland	\$1,459.00	557	New Haven Baptist Church	Florence	\$1,000.00
408	Springhill Baptist Church	Lumberton	\$1,458.10	558	First Baptist Church	Terry	\$1,000.00
409	Pilgrim's Rest Baptist Church	Houlika	\$1,450.00	559	New Liberty Baptist Church	Collinsville	\$1,000.00
410	Mount Nebo Baptist Church	Bay Springs	\$1,443.12	560	Oloah First Baptist Church	Morton	\$1,000.00
411	Clear Springs Baptist Church	Water Valley	\$1,443.00	561		Sumrall	\$1,000.00
412	Lakeshore Baptist Church	Jackson	\$1,443.00	562			

Christian hit movie Fireproof now available on DVD

RAPID CITY, S.D. (BP) — South Dakota pastor John Little is a fan of Christian movies, but even he's generally skeptical when he reads stories about how a particular film is changing peoples' lives.

After watching Fireproof and seeing marriages change for the better, he's a believer.

"I really think Fireproof is the real deal," the pastor of Rapid Valley Church in Rapid City told Baptist Press. "I've seen it happen."

The 2008 hit that made \$33 million on a \$500,000 budget, Fireproof has been released on DVD. Made by staff and volunteers at Sherwood Church in Albany, Ga. — the same congregation that made the 2006 film Facing the Giants — Fireproof opened in the Top 5 nationally in total gross despite playing in fewer than 1,000 theaters and also finished in the Top 10 its first eight weeks in per-theater average gross.

The DVD release coincides with the release of The Love Dare book earlier in January in a leather-like cover. Rolled out as a paperback last fall, the book, which ranked No. 1 last year on The New York Times paperback advice list, plays a key role in the movie's plot. A Love Dare Bible Study also has been released.

Although the DVD is being released to the general public Tuesday, it has been available for purchase by churches along with a necessary screening license since late December. Churches must obtain a license before showing it to their congregations. (Licenses can be purchased at Outreach.com).

Fireproof, rated PG, stars Kirk Cameron and Erin Bethea,

and tells the story of how a firefighter captain works to save his failing marriage. The movie's website has a list of approximately 2,400 testimonies from people, most of whom either have seen their marriage change for the better or witnessed someone else's marriage improve. It also has a few testimonies from people who are now divorced and regret the movie wasn't released earlier.

"I only wish it had come out about six years ago, when I got divorced. I honestly believe it could have saved our marriage at that time," one testimony reads.

"This movie penetrated the core of what a lot of couples go through and even a lot of single adults go through. They saw in the movie the past mistakes they've made in marriages," Little said.

With assistance from the Dakota Baptist Convention, Little's church was one of dozens nationwide that brought Fireproof to their respective city by buying a block of 1,000 tickets. The church publicized the movie in part by having a ticket giveaway on a local Christian station and pop station.

The effort was worth it. The movie stayed in the Rapid City Theater for two months — longer than did movies that cost millions to make — and impacted countless marriages in the process.

Just the other day the church's lady's prayer group

"had a praise report," Little said, "from a couple who had just about called it quits but now were back together after watching the movie, and they were [reading] The Love Dare."

Two local businessmen were so impressed by the movie that they bought and distributed tickets to firefighters, police officers, and military personnel. That, too, had an impact.

"The chaplain at Ellsworth Air Force Base e-mailed me several times telling me that his counseling load had gone up since Fireproof, with couples who wanted to restore their

marriage," said Little, whose church showed the movie on Jan. 25.

Such stories are also common in East Athens, Ala., where pastor Tim Anderson of Clements Church has seen the movie change lives. He is preaching a sermon series titled, Fireproofing Your Marriage, that will cap with a church-wide viewing of the film Feb. 8 and the launch of couples reading The Love Dare.

One recent sermon had a particular impact on a local couple. On that Sunday, Anderson told his congregation: "If you're counseling someone or encouraging someone to divorce, please stop. You're not a friend if you're doing that." He soon got a call from a lady who had attended the service that day.

"She said, 'Pastor, I'm calling to tell you that I called my friend and apologized, because I had been given her bad counsel.'"

Days later, he got another call from the same woman. "Pastor, I want you to know that my friends are now in counseling. They have viewed Fireproof. It has helped them greatly and while they still have a long way to go, divorce is not an option and they're working through their problems," the woman said, according to Anderson.

The movie, Little said, is powerful because it deals with topics, pornography and

money among them, that often lead to divorce.

"I liked the fact that it was real," the South Dakota pastor said. "It portrayed real life and issues folks go through. I was glad to see it approach the subject of pornography in such an open and direct way without being crude or rude."

Ken Bevel, who plays firefighter Michael Simmons in the movie, said he has been amazed at how Fireproof influenced people. Although Bevel isn't a professional actor — Fireproof was his first acting role — he at times has been noticed in public as "the guy from Fireproof," including one time during a shopping trip the day after Thanksgiving.

"There were thousands of people in Wal-Mart running around," Bevel said, "and this guy walked up to me and said, 'Hey, you're the guy from Fireproof.' I said, 'Yeah that's me.' I kept looking for what I went in there for but he said, 'That movie really impacted me and it saved my marriage.' It just stopped me in my tracks right there, because this guy who doesn't know me just decided to come up to me and say, 'What you did in that movie really blessed me.'"

Anderson said Fireproof isn't just for people whose marriages are on the rocks. "I don't care how good your marriage is. It needs to be better," he said. "All men and women struggle in relationships. [The emphasis on Fireproof] has been great for my wife and me, as well."

Editor's note: For more information about Fireproof, visit FireproofTheMovie.com.

Study: majority of churchgoers open to switching denominations

PHOENIX (BP) — Seven out of 10 regular churchgoers would be at least somewhat open to switching denominations, with dramatic differences between Protestants and Roman Catholics, according to a study released by Ellison Research of Phoenix.

As part of the survey released Jan. 12, Ellison polled a representative sample of 1,007 American adults. The sample included 471 respondents who regularly attend worship services at a church broadly considered to be within the Christian tradition: Protestant, Roman Catholic, and Orthodox. The survey also included Mormon respondents.

Respondents who attend worship services once a month or more were first asked the specific denomination of the church they attend most often (for example, not just Baptist, but Southern Baptist, Free Will Baptist, etc.). Then they were asked what role that denomination would play if they could no longer attend their current church (if the church closed or if they moved to another area, for instance).

Three out of 10 churchgoers say they would only consider attending one denomination — they would be open to nothing else. Another 44% report having one preferred denomination, but they would also consider others.

Eleven percent have a small number of denominations they would consider,

with no particular favorite among them. Six percent don't have any particular denomination they prefer, but they do have certain ones they would not consider. Finally, nine percent say denomination does not factor into their decision of what church to attend.

Denominational loyalty differs strongly between Protestants and Catholics. Six out of 10 active Catholics would only consider attending a Roman Catholic church, and another 29% prefer this, although they do not rule out other denominations. Eleven percent of Catholics do not show a specific preference for attending a Catholic parish.

In comparison, just 16% of Protestant churchgoers will only consider attending their current denomination. Fifty-one percent do express preference for one denomination, but would also consider others. Thirty-three percent do not have any preference for one specific denomination.

There is little difference between the loyalties of people who attend evangelical Protestant churches and those who attend a mainline Protestant denomination.

Groups other than Catholic or Protestant, as well as individual Protestant denominations, represent a proportion of all churchgoers that is too small to analyze separately in the study findings although their responses are included in the overall findings for all churchgoers.

There are relatively few demographic differences within the findings. Denominational loyalty does not vary significantly by gender, household income, age, or type of community (small town, suburban or urban).

It does vary by ethnicity and by region of the country. Ethnic differences are driven more by the Catholic/Protestant divide than by the actual demographics. Hispanic churchgoers — a majority of whom attend a Catholic church — are the most intensely loyal to their denomination, while African Americans — relatively few of whom attend a Catholic church — are the least loyal.

Similarly, loyalty is highest in the Northeast, where Catholicism is more common than in any other part of the country, and lowest in the South, where Catholicism has less of a presence.

People who worship at a nondenominational congregation were asked the same question about their loyalty to attending a nondenominational church. People who attend a nondenominational church actually are more loyal to remaining nondenominational than churchgoers in Protestant denominations are to staying within their own denomination.

Among nondenominational churchgoers, 29% will only consider a nondenominational church, while 32% prefer a nondenominational congregation but

would also consider others. Sixteen percent have a small selection of denominations they would consider (including nondenominational) with no specific preference; 15% don't have a specific preference but do have some denominations they would avoid; and nine percent don't pay attention to denomination when selecting a church.

Ron Sellers, president of Ellison Research, said there may be much more to the story of the Protestant/Catholic loyalty divide than loyal Catholics and non-loyal Protestants.

"It's not as though there are 200 different Roman Catholic denominations," Sellers said. "On the Protestant side, there are scores of different denominations, with some of them fairly similar in practice and theology. The story of this research is that many Protestants may not see a lot of difference among some of these denominations. It may not be lack of loyalty so much as it is the presence of so many options that is causing Protestants to be about as loyal to a brand of toothpaste or bathroom tissue as they are to their church denomination."

"Protestant denominations are simply facing what most companies face as they try to develop brand loyalty — consumers with many different options who may not perceive strong differences among those options," Sellers said.